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CIA SHUFFLING TOP OFFICIALS
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THE CIA, FACING MOUNTING CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE TO COVERT AID FOR NICARAGUAN REBELS, IS TRANSFERRING FOUR TOP-LEVEL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE HEAD OF ITS CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS AND CHIEF CAPITOL HILL LOBBYIST.

THE SHIFTS, SCHEDULED TO TAKE EFFECT SUNDAY, WERE DESCRIBED BY A CIA SPOKESMAN AS A "ROUTINE ROTATION," BUT THE MOVES COME AS SUPPORT IN CONGRESS FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AID TO ANTI-GOVERNMENT REBELS CONTINUES TO ERODE AND SOME ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CONCEDE ADDITIONAL AID THIS YEAR IS UNLIKELY.

CIA SPOKESMAN DALE PETERSON SAID WEDNESDAY NIGHT THAT JOHN STEIN, DIRECTOR OF CIA CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS, WHICH OVERSEES COVERT ACTIONS, WILL BECOME THE SPY AGENCY'S INSPECTOR GENERAL. STEIN WILL BE REPLACED BY CLAIR GEORGE, CURRENTLY HEAD OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON.

IN ADDITION, CHARLES BRIGGS, THE AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILL BE MADE THE CIA'S CHIEF CONGRESSIONAL LOBBYIST, AND THE AGENCY'S INSPECTOR GENERAL, JAMES TAYLOR, WILL MOVE TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE AGENCY'S NO. 2 JOB, PETERSON SAID.

PETERSON DESCRIBED THE CHANGES AS A "ROUTINE ROTATION, MOVING PEOPLE FROM ONE HIGH-LEVEL POSITION TO ANOTHER," AND HE DENIED THAT THE SHIFTS RESULTED FROM CONCERNS ABOUT THE AGENCY'S CENTRAL AMERICAN ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THE DECISION TO TRANSFER THE FOUR HIGH-LEVEL CIA OFFICIALS WAS MADE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO BY CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM J. CASEY AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR JOHN MCANON.

BUT ONE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIAL, WHO INSISTED ON ANONYMITY, SAID THE MOVES STEMMED FROM A STRING OF SETBACKS THIS YEAR THAT HAVE UNDERMINED SUPPORT FOR THE CIA'S AID TO REBELS FIGHTING TO OUST NICARAGUA'S LEFTIST GOVERNMENT.

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION HAS INCREASED AGAINST THE 2 1/2-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM AMID DISCLOSURES THAT THE CIA DIRECTED MINING OF NICARAGUA'S HARBORS, CONGRESSIONAL COMPLAINTS THAT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES WERE NOT ADEQUATELY INFORMED AND A FINDING BY THE WORLD COURT CRITICAL OF THE U.S. ACTIONS.

BY AN 88-1 VOTE TONDAY, THE SENATE SHELVED REAGAN'S REQUEST FOR \$21 MILLION MORE FOR THE COVERT ACTION THIS YEAR, PROMPTING CLAIMS FROM STAT HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS THAT THE PROGRAM IS EFFECTIVELY DEAD.

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